

REMARKS

Responsive to the office action mailed April 24, 2007, Applicants provide the following. Claim 1 has been amended, new claims 47-49 have been added, and claims 17-44 were previously cancelled. Therefore, Twenty-One (21) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1-16 and 45-49. Reconsideration of claims 1-16 and 45-46, and consideration of claims 47-49 in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 6-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By way of this response, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Thomas F. Lebens, Attorney for Applicants at (805) 541-2800 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

1. Claims 1-5, 8-16 and 45-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,639,733 (Minano et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as the Minano patent fails to expressly or inherently describe each and every element as set forth in at least claim 1. Applicants, however, have amended claim 1 in order to pursue the timely issuance of the allowable subject matter. Applicants submit that the amendment of claim 1 should not be viewed as the surrender of broader subject matter, and Applicants specifically preserve the right to present unamended claim 1 or other claims in a continuation application.

Applicants respectfully further submit that the Minano patent does not teach or suggest each limitation as recited in amended claim 1 or newly added independent claims 47-49. For example, amended claim 1 recites in part:

a reimaging reflector ... [that reflects] a percentage of light emitted from the first light source ... and at least some of the percentage of light reflected from the reimaging reflector defines a first real image ... wherein said reflected light from said first real image is directed into substantially a same solid angle as a solid angle of substantially a remaining portion of light emitted from said first light source that does not strike the reimaging reflector thereby achieving etendue squeezing of said first light source.

The Minano patent does not teach at least at least a reimaging reflector or a reflective base that in combination produce a real image having a solid of angle that is directed into substantially the same solid of angle as the solid angle of substantially the remaining portion of light emitted from the first light source that does not strike the reimaging reflector or achieving the etendue squeezing as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Minano patent and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-16 and 45-46 depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-16 and 45-46 are also not anticipated by Minano due at least to their dependency on allowable claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 6-7 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have not amended claims 6-7 as Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

New Claims

3. New claim 47-49 have been added without adding new matter. Support for claims 47-49 can be found throughout the application as filed. For example, support can be found in the descriptions of FIGS. 1-15, and as shown in at least FIGS. 1-3, 6, 8 and 11-13 and the descriptions of FIGS. 1-3, 6, 8 and 11-13, such as on page 16, lines 11-18 and page 18, line 3-30.

The Minano patent does not describe at least a virtual source, virtual source that is larger in dimensions than the first real image, a virtual source thereby reducing a solid angle of light emissions without substantially increasing etendue of the light source, a virtual light source that has a width that is larger than a width of the first light source without substantially increasing etendue of the first light source. Therefore, claims 47-49 are not anticipated or obvious in view of the Minano patent.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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